Top of The News

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE DIVISION

from: *Elizabeth A. Groves*

It is with sharpened anticipation that we are looking forward to the conference at Cleveland, July 16-22, with headquarters for the Division at the Hollenden Hotel. The past year of regional meetings offered much, but the opportunity for librarians from all sections of the United States to meet together once more in a united group, to exchange ideas and receive stimulation beyond the regional boundaries is such that many are planning to attend. This year there will be a pre-conference on "Growing in Democracy", sponsored by A.A.S.L. There will be a week of meetings, every morning of which will be started off by a one hour workshop sponsored by the A.Y.P.L. The Division will have one large program meeting; there will also be a Division business meeting at the end of the week. A joint meeting is being arranged by the Library Extension Division and our Division, and there will be the usual program meetings of the A.A.S.L., A.Y.P.L. and C.L.A. as well as business meetings for each association. The C.L.A. is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary and the Division wishes them many more fifty years of progress and achievement.

The problem will be to find enough hours in the day to attend a fraction of the meetings we wish to and to find a modicum of time to spend with the friends we see all too infrequently. We in the Division look to the future, contemplating further growth, confident that we will continue to work in cooperation in all matters of common interest to those working with children and materials; we wish the A.A.S.L. success in their new status and wish again to reaffirm our interest in their program.

With this issue of *Top of the News*, Marian Young relinquishes her editorial responsibilities to Mrs. Alice Brooks McGuire of Austin, Texas (formerly of the Center for Children's Books at the University of Chicago). We in the Division regret very much Miss Young's leaving the editorship, but wish her all manner of success in her professional activities. We welcome Sally McGuire as an old friend and constant contributor to TON and know that under her editorship *Top of the News* will continue to grow and to serve as a medium of contact and expression for all librarians working with children and youth.

The A.L.A. will honor the C.L.A. on its 50th anniversary by presenting Louise Seaman Bechtel as a speaker on the General Session program on Thursday morning, July 20.

The Hospitality Committee of the Division, Jean Roos and Elizabeth Briggs, are going to great efforts to make us comfortable, to provide oppor-

tunities for informal gatherings or conferences at the Hollenden. We earnestly hope that this year will see a greater Division attendance at a national conference than ever before, and we hope that many new members in the profession will be able to come. Much has been accomplished in the past, much remains to be done in the future; we need all members to come together and to work in unity and strength, for only then will we continue to grow.

DIVISION PROGRAMS FOR CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

Monday — July 17 — 10:00 A.M.

Joint Meeting with Library Extension Division, County and Regional Libraries Section

Discussion of Report on Bookmobile Services to Schools.

Nettie B. Taylor, State Education Department, Baltimore, Maryland, Discussion Leader.

Thursday — July 20 — 2:30 P.M.

General Session

Theme: Good Books for ALL Children and Youth. Books for all in our Country?

Mrs. Ruth Gagliardo, Chairman, Library and Reading Committee, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Lawrence, Kansas.

Unesco and Books for Children

Mrs. Ethel B. Gilbert, UNESCO officer, New York, N.Y.

Friday — July 21 — 11:00 A.M.

Business meeting

VIRGINIA CHASE ELECTED

As a result of the election held by the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People, Virginia Chase, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, will become the first Vice President and President-elect of the Division, following the Cleveland conference. The President for 1950-51 is Mae Graham, State Department of Education, Maryland.

Jane Darrah, Public Library, Youngstown, Ohio, will be the new Division Treasurer. The seven new A.L.A. Councilors elected by the Division are: Mary Lee Keath, Board of Education, Denver; Dora M. Leavitt, Cleveland Junior-Senior High School, Seattle; Edward T. Schofield, Board of Education, Newark; Elizabeth Gross, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore; Sarah Dickinson, Kings County Public Library, Seattle; S. Virginia Fooks, Public Library, Prividence; Harriet Cox, Library Association, Portland, Oregon. This report is made by Miss Lesley Newton, Public Library, Lakewood, Ohio, Chairman of the Division Election Committee.

TO: THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From: *Margaret M. Clark, Cleveland Public Library, Chairman*

Programming for the CLA at the Cleveland Convention in July is being planned around the fiftieth anniversary celebration, and there will be features to mark the anniversary year.

The CLA has sent out invitations for the Newbery-Caldecott dinner to CLA Chairmen of the past fifty years, except for a very few that we were unable to locate. We are glad to report that a goodly number plan to attend.

Miss Margaret Lesser of Doubleday and Miss Alice Dalgliesh of Scribners, Children's editors of the awards books, are cooperating with CLA to make the Newbery-Caldecott evening a happy and memorable one.

The CLA luncheon for Children's Editors of the Children's Book Council will be a special feature of this anniversary year. It will be held Thursday, July 20th, at 12:30, in the Ballroom of the Hotel Hollenden.

Mrs. Frances Clarke Sayers, author, and Superintendent of Work with Children in the New York Public Library, will act as Moderator for the luncheon program, which is planned as a discussion meeting. We are interested in presenting problems of mutual interest to Children's Librarians and Children's Editors for discussion, and will welcome questions forwarded by Editors or Children's Librarians in advance to set up the pattern for the discussion, and base it on problems of most popular interest. March *Top of the News* presented a few general ideas on which we hoped to build the program.

Miss Adeline Corrigan of the Cleveland Public Library is local Chairman for the Newbery-Caldecott Dinner, and Mrs. Zella Hayes, also of the Cleveland Public Library, is local Chairman of the CLA Children's Book Council luncheon. They are taking care of all local arrangements and reservations for these two events.

May Hill Arbuthnot, former professor of Children's Literature at Western Reserve University, author of *Children and Books,* and well known lecturer, will appear on the CLA afternoon program session in a talk relating to children's literature. Her title is "And one to grow on".

The annual business meeting this year will be one of vital importance to Children's Librarians. Every member of CLA who can come is urged to attend, so that there will be a large representation present as we consider future plans.

Signing off with every hope that we'll be seeing you in Cleveland at the fiftieth anniversary convention for CLA.

FIRST CHAIRMAN SALUTES C.L.A.

by

Anne Carroll Moore

Anne Carroll Moore
photo, courtesy
The Horn Book

I wish it were possible to convey to every reader of this anniversary issue of *Top of the News* the exhilaration, the anticipation and the deep inner satisfaction felt by the children's librarians who attended the Montreal conference of the American Library Association in June 1900.

Far and few and widely scattered were the children's librarians of fifty years ago, but how rich we were in friends and believers in our cause you may read in the volumes of the *Library Journal* of the period when Helen Haines was its inspiriting assistant editor and Richard R. Bowker an ardent champion of the rights of children in the field of bibliography as well as to rooms of their own in public libraries.

Children's reading had been given a place on A.L.A. programs for years. Children's rooms and departments had been freely written about. Chief librarians over the country were on record as actively interested in children as personalities, as readers, as future patrons of their libraries requiring special service on equal terms with adult circulation and reference departments. Direct service to children who came to the library of their own volition was clearly distinguished from library service to schools.

The time was ripe in the judgment of Mary Wright Plummer, Vice-President of the A.L.A., to devote an entire session to the whole subject of Library Work with Children and she arranged a program of papers by children's librarians designed to illustrate the main features of the work — the selection and care of books, the problems of individual service and community service, picture bulletins, storytelling, etc. At a public session the evening before, Caroline Hewins had spoken on the qualifications of a children's librarian in one of her inimitable presentations of children's reading.

So stimulated were the children's librarians by the meetings and by informal talks with the friendly personalities behind great names that a get-together of those actively engaged in work with children was held and an organization was formed to be known as the Club of Children's Librarians. Mary Dousman of the Milwaukee Public Library chose the name as "more social than round table". Its objectives were defined as closer personal acquaintance, cooperative work in book selection and interchange of experience. I was elected chairman and Mary E. Dousman, secretary. "The Secretary of the Club of Children's Librarians was instructed to inform the Secretary of the A.L.A. of the formation of the Club and to offer its services in the

making of programs for future sessions on library work with children, if so desired."

As a result of this proposal at a meeting of the Executive Board held on November 2, 1900 "it was voted that a section for library work with children be established, provided such section be acceptable to the Club of Children's Librarians."

The section was promptly accepted, the first program proposed had been tentatively prepared by the officers of the Club. With its presentation to the program committee of the A.L.A. and its acceptance for the Waukesha Conference of 1901 the Club of Children's Librarians went out of existence and its officers became Chairman and Secretary of the Children's Librarians Section.

That change of name has not altered the spirit and intention of our growing concern with children, books and community service the Children's Library Association bears full testimony. As your first chairman I have faith in a future in which children and books still hold the balance of hidden power both to achieve and to recollect.

GREETINGS ON THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLA

FREDERIC G. MELCHER

The whole field of children's reading has been on the march this past half century. All of which you've seen, much of which you were. May the sense of clear purpose and the spirit of justified confidence follow the work of the CLA in its most useful years, which are those still ahead.

Frederic G. Melcher

GREETINGS FROM CLARA WHITEHILL HUNT

Greetings and congratulations to the happy company of librarians who have the high privilege of influencing profoundly the young people of our great land. May you, when you reach your Fiftieth Anniversaries, find yourselves as rich in friendships and in glowing memories as the fortunate Children's Librarian who sends this message. News of the great expansion of our work comes to me freely and strengthens my belief that, despite the murk of the present, so many men of good will in so many fields are thinking, striving, praying for it, that Peace on Earth will surely come.

Clara Whitehill Hunt.
Chairman 1903-1905, 1921-1922

GREETINGS FROM ALICE M. JORDAN

With the perspective of fifty years, I still hold firmly to the belief that sound work with children is basic in public libraries.

My every good wish goes to those children's librarians of today who, under changed conditions, are following the high aims which inspired the founders of the "Section of Library Work with Children".

Sincerely yours,
Alice M. Jordan
Chairman 1906-1907, 1916-1917

TO MY CO-WORKERS:

As I look back to the early A.L.A. Conference at Montreal in 1900 one picture stands out clearly across the years. I see a small group of workers with children, gathered about Miss Caroline M. Hewins in her hotel room, listening with admiration to her fine talk about books she loved as a child and her reading of the adventures of the Franconian children, especially the much traveled Beechnut. I have only my memory as to who were there: "Annie" Carroll Moore, Mary E. Dousman, Mrs. Mary S. Root, Mrs. Annie Jackson, Effie L. Power and others. No doubt Miss Moore can name the "others". Some of us sat on the floor for lack of chairs. Time passed all too quickly. Later the group met formally around a table at Conference Headquarters and sent in a request for official recognition as a Round Table Division. Discussion there was mostly about books. We had accepted alcoves, corners and make-shift children's rooms as necessity measures in many localities and had worked to make them attractive to children. In the Cleveland Library which I represented the seed sown by classroom libraries, children's natural curiosity and (one suspects) rumors of possible age restrictions brought in such hordes that there was no need for publicity. The prevailing problems among those present at this conference were how to choose books of lasting value and how to present them. Miss Hewins had already given us a main guide in her "Books for the young" published in 1882. We had "Reading for the young" by Mary and Abby Sargent. Also, Chief Librarians like Mr. Brett were personally evaluating so called "juveniles". And so we discussed books, and more books, storytelling and the importance of right personal contacts.

Later I attended many A.L.A. Conferences and presided as Chairman of the Childrens Librarian's Section at Kaaterskill in 1913 and in Los Angeles in 1930 where the big event was the presentation of the John Newbery Medal to Rachel Field for her "Hitty". Watching the development of library service with and for children during fifty years has been a thrilling experience. I wish to pay my tribute to all the pioneers in libraries and publishing houses and salute the leaders of today for the high level of their accomplishments in meeting the expanding problems of a new half century.

Cordially yours,
Effie L. Power
Chairman 1912-13, 1929-30

Pompano Beach
Florida

GREETINGS FROM FAITH E. SMITH CHAIRMAN C.L.A. 1910-11

I am enclosing a note about the meeting of the Children's Section of the A.L.A. in Pasadena in 1911. It was indeed during the formative years of the C.L.A. I do hope that some of the eagerness and belief of that day may pervade your commemoration of the anniversary.

The meeting of the Children's Section of the A.L.A. in Pasadena in 1911, gave us great pride and confidence in spite of our growing pains. Our main speaker was Mr. Henry E. Legler, then librarian of the Chicago Public Library, a humanitarian, as well as a librarian. He was keenly interested in the children of our minority groups and was especially eager to make books available to the underprivileged children. What our children's libraries are able to do today may be due partly to the encouragement he gave us in those early years.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

(Highlights of the fifty years history of the Association in which one may find, along with a record of progress, many parallel statements that could well be made today.)

compiled by
Miriam A. Wessel, Head
Main Library Children's Room
Detroit Public Library

"Occasionally the librarian who serves children will have to take account of stock. She will have to retire a little from her work, take a bird's eye view of it, and decide if on the whole progress is making toward her ideal. 'This one thing I do,' the librarian may have to keep reminding herself, to keep from being drawn off into other issues, but by standing a little apart she may see what is to her advantage without being sucked in by the draft as some enthusiastic movement sweeps by. Must she have no enthusiasm? Yes, indeed; but is not that a better enthusiasm which enables one to work on steadily for years with undiminished courage than the kind that exhausts itself in the great vivacity of its first feeling and effort?"

Mary Wright Plummer, 1897

In October 1899, *Anne Carroll Moore* wrote to the Executive Board of the American Library Association and asked that a Children's Librarians Section be created, and stated: "It would be a saving both of time and strength if we could focus our attention upon one problem after another and contribute to its solution the net results of our combined experiences." The letter was signed by ten women who are pioneers in the movement for recognition of children's librarians.

An entry in the *Library Journal* for November 1899, under the Transactions of the Executive Board, reads, "A petition was presented requesting the establishment of a Section devoted to library work with children, for the Montreal meeting. It was decided, however, that this subject was of such wide interest that it should be made of more general prominence and it was therefore voted that one session of the Montreal meeting be devoted to the subject of Library Work with Children."

1900 At the second general session of the Montreal conference, therefore, "Work with Children" was the subject of a bright address by *Miss C. M. Hewins,* who dwelt upon the qualifications that should mark the successful children's librarian: "The personality of a children's librarian is of the greatest importance. She should be gentle and quiet in manner, but should have an inexhaustible fund of energy, vitality and resourcefulness, should be sunshiny, blessed with a sense of humor, and not too far above children's heads. The children's librarian should be a good story-teller and story chooser, for the old art of storytelling has been revived in children's libraries. She must have the dramatic faculty to a certain extent, to hold children's attention, and most of all, in the words of one of the best of children's librarians, 'she should be clean and cheerful and not use long words.'"

A recess of two minutes was taken, during which the cataloger's Round Table was organized in one of the smaller halls!

The Association then resolved itself into two sections — one for the consideration of library work with children, with *Miss Plummer* presiding. The first topic was "Methods for inducing care of books" by *Mary E. Dousman* of Milwaukee Public Library, who found "that much of the misuse of books was due to bad bookmaking, and the selection of delicately tinted covers by publishers, and . . . to the lack of training which children receive in the matter of respect for inanimate objects in general." The second subject before the session was "Children's books and periodicals," presented by *Miss Abby Sargent,* "in a charming paper full of literary feeling which made a strong appeal for higher standards in juvenile literature;" this was discussed by *H. L. Elmendorf, Miss Hewins,* and *Mrs. Fairchild.* "Picture work in children's libraries" was introduced by *Miss Anne Carroll Moore* whose remarks were illustrated by a number of picture bulletins, demonstrating faults and excellences in picture work; while *Miss Clara Hunt* had a short paper on the subject, "deprecating the use of bulletins only as a means of increasing the circulation of what are known as instructive books." "Storytelling, lectures, and other adjuncts of the children's library" was the final topic, opened by *Miss Frances Jenkins Olcott* in a paper which described the broad kindergarten aspect of children's work in Pittsburgh, and closed by *Miss Tobitt* of Omaha and *Miss McCrory* of Cedar Rapids who spoke of the efforts made to reach and interest children in their respective libraries.

After this general session several interested people met in an informal group to discuss means of cooperation among those actively engaged in library work with children. As a result an organization was formed to be known as the *Club of Children's Librarians,* of which *Miss Anne Carroll Moore* was made chairman, and *Miss M.E. Dousman* secretary. The Club offered its services to the American Library Association in the making of programs for future sessions of library work with children. Further details of the organization of the Club of Children's Librarians are given in the articles by *Anne Carroll Moore* and *Effie L. Power* that appear in this issue.

Others at the Montreal conference, whose names are associated with the growth of library work with children, were: *Annette C. Ellison,* Supt., Children's Department, Minneapolis; *Emma R. Engle,* Assistant, Children's

Room, Philadelphia; *Mrs. Annie Jackson,* Trustee, North Adams, Massachusetts; *Effie L. Power,* Assistant, Cleveland; *Mrs. Mary E. Root,* Children's Librarian, Providence; *Mrs. M. A. Sanders,* Librarian, Pawtucket; *Mrs. Gertrude Sheffield,* Children's Room, Boston.

The Proceedings of the Conference, in its daily report of activities, notes the following item for the Sabbath: "On Sunday the A.L.A. turned its activities from Literature to Religion, and pursued the 'ecclesiastical features of Montreal'. One party rested secure in the consciousness of having 'done' six churches, until their cup was embittered by meeting a rival group with eleven to its credit."

Among the transactions of the Executive Board of the A.L.A. meeting of November 2, 1900, it was voted, "That a Section for Library Work with Children be established, provided such section be acceptable to the officers of the Club of Children's Librarians."

1835. Although organized Library work with children began with the turn of the century, actually its roots lay far in the past. As early as 1835 the first formal bequest for a free collection of children's books was made by *Dr. Ebenezer Learned,* to the town of West Cambridge, Massachusetts, for books "which will best promote useful knowledge and the Christian virtues among the scholars in the primary schools."

In 1876, a special report on "Public Libraries in the United States of America" published by the U. S. Bureau of Education, included a paper by *Mr. W. I. Fletcher* in which he discusses principles of book selection for the young, and the removal of age restrictions in the public library. "Our public libraries will fail in an important part of their mission if they shut out from their treasures minds craving the best, because, forsooth, the child is too young to read good books."

At the A.L.A. Conference at Cincinnati in 1882, *Caroline Hewins* gave the first of a series of reports on "Reading for the Young," a summary of reports made by twenty-five leading libraries throughout the country, in answer to "What are you doing to encourage a love of good reading in boys and girls?" In 1883 her list "Books for the Young" was published by A.L.A.

In 1894, a scientific study of children's reading was made by *Lutie E. Stearns,* of the Milwaukee Public Library and presented at the A.L.A. conference.

Mary Wright Plummer made an address in 1897 in Philadelphia on The Work for Children in Free Libraries, which was based upon the experiences of a number of libraries. Through Miss Plummer's influence, children's books were included in the first A.L.A. Catalog prepared in 1898.

Anne Carroll Moore, then at Pratt Institute, outlined a special course for Children's Librarians. A similar program at Pittsburgh was realized in 1901 through the help and interest of Andrew Carnegie.

This year also saw the departmentalization of Children's work in certain large cities; Cleveland, New York, Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

1900. The Montreal Conference marked the founding of the Children's Librarians' Club and in November of the same year, the Section for Library Work with Children was voted.

1902. At the Magnolia Conference of 1902, the basis of section membership was defined and twenty active members and 120 associate members were registered.

Contrast was drawn between this children's librarians' meeting, with its large and interested attendance, and the convention of 1889, when a paper on children's reading was purposely read on a rainy night so people could not get away.

1904. Funds were given by *Andrew Carnegie* for a monthly review for

libraries to be known as *The Booklist.* From the first number there was a separate section of Children's books.

1906. At the Narragansett Pier Conference *S. H. Ranck* said, "I should like to urge upon the librarians in general the importance of regulating the work of the children's librarian so that her time is not absorbed in details and routine, so that she may have plenty of time to do personal work." Among the valuable statistics gathered last year for the report on library work with children a striking feature was the proportion of juvenile books issued to borrowers in 67 of the largest cities. This was given as 31 per cent of the total circulation in the cities reporting. (See Berelson report — 1949)

1910. *Mackinac Conference — 1st session.* The sessions of the Children's Librarians were presided over by *Miss May Massee* of the Buffalo Public Library. Some of the people who participated in a symposium on books about children were: *Linda Eastman, Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, Mr. Henry E. Legler, Miss Lutie E. Stearns,* and *Miss Elva E. Bascom.*

The session closed with a short discussion on intermediate work led by *Miss Mary Douglas,* of the St. Louis Public Library. The necessity was shown for a closer study of the needs of the older children with a view to meeting them adequately.

1916. Margaret Mann's "Subject Headings for use in its Dictionary Catalog of Juvenile Books" was published by A.L.A.

1920. An important appointment to the A.L.A. Staff — *Miss Jessie Gay Van Cleve* as Specialist in Children's Literature.

1922. *Detroit Conference — 1st session.* At this meeting the first John Newbery Medal, donated by *Frederic G. Melcher* to the Children's Librarians' Section of the A.L.A., to be awarded annually "for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children" was presented to *Dr. Hendrik Willem Van Loon,* author of "The Story of Mankind."

After accepting the medal from Mr. Melcher on behalf of the Children's Librarians Section, *Clara W. Hunt,* Chairman, said, "I would I had the ability to express adequately the gratitude which we children's librarians feel for the inspiration which prompted you to make this gift to the cause we love . . . We feel strong and powerful because you believe in us and you are putting in our hands a weapon, one of the most potent of our times, publicity of the best kind."

Second Session. *Mrs. Mary E. S. Root,* in her paper "Charted Seas," recalled the "Little ship which was the Children's movement twenty-one years ago," and paid tribute to the early pilots and "friendly convoys" who kept the venturesome little craft on its course. Some of the early pilots, *Miss Hunt, Miss Moore, Miss Power, Miss Engle* and *Miss Dousman,* still sailing the good ship, charted the seas for the Children's librarians of 1922. "Appreciation has come," said Mrs. Root, "and crowning triumph in the year of Our Lord, 1922, she awards the John Newbery medal or the most distinctive juvenile published this year."

Third Session. After an address by *Clara W. Hunt,* chairman, in which she urged that the Section be placed upon a more organized basis, *Effie L. Power* submitted a proposed Constitution upon which to base all future

business of the Children's Librarians' Section, which was adopted.

1930. The Book Evaluation Committee was asked to act as advisor and prepare lists on subjects to be presented in a series of radio programs for children sponsored by the American School of the Air.

The third White House Conference assumed special significance because, for the first time national attention was given to the importance of reading in the life of the child, and the problem was viewed mainly through the library angle. *Helen Martin* was chairman of the Public Libraries sub-committee of the Committee on Reading. The nineteen vital points of the "Children's Charter" were the final recommendations of the total conference.

In December 1935, the School and Library Division was established at A.L.A. Headquarters, headed by *Jessie Gay Van Cleve*. She was succeeded by *Mildred Batchelder* in January 1938.

1937. *New York Conference.* "As she read her paper 'Lose Not the Nightingale,' *Mrs. Sayers* recalled to mind our trust; to cherish great traditions, to transmit them untarnished, and to influence those who have not heard the nightingale sing."

"The Section for Library Work with Children, accepted with enthusiasm the generous offer of *Mr. Frederic G. Melcher*, of a Picture Book medal, to be called the *Caldecott Award*. This award will go to the most distinguished picture book for children published in the United States during the year." The first award was given to *Dorothy Lathrop* for her "Animals of the Bible".

Anne Carroll Moore said in the July 1938 *News Letter*, "The retirement of *Mary E. Dousman*, Head of the Young People's Department of the Milwaukee Public Library removes from active library service one of the pioneers among the children's librarians of the country."

1939. Preceding the San Francisco Conference a three day Institute on Children's Work was held at the University of California under the direction of *Frances Clarke Sayers*.

At this conference Gladys English read a resolution passed at a special meeting of the Section. "Through many years the Section for Library Work with Children of the American Library Association has turned with confidence to *Frederic G. Melcher* for wise counsel, inspiration and practical help . . . He has continuously and generously worked with us to further the progress of our Section . . . In grateful recognition, therefore, and as an expression of our appreciation, the Section for Library Work with Children elects Frederic G. Melcher an honorary member."

1941. At the awards dinner the surprise of the evening was the presentation of inscribed loving cups to *Alice M. Jordan*, who had recently retired as Supervisor of Work with Children at the Boston Public Library, and to *Anne Carroll Moore*, who was about to retire as head of Children's Work at the New York Public Library.

At the Boston conference in 1941, "It was voted that divisional status be granted the combined organization made up of the Section for Library Work with Children, the School Libraries Section, and the Young People's Reading Round Table and that this body be designated the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People."

1942. At the Milwaukee conference the new Division of Libraries for Children and Young People had its real baptism. The former Section for Library Work with Children adopted its new constitution and the new name, *Children's Library Association.*

The Publicity Committee recommended that the *News Letter* be taken over by the Division, so that it might act as a channel for information to all librarians interested in bringing children and young people together with books. Accordingly, *Top of the News* replaced the *News Letter* in Oct. 1942.

1944. *Conference in Print.* *Mary Gould Davis* made a plea for an immediate active "emergency" program for the children of Europe, so that as countries are freed from Nazi rule, small, simply equipped library rooms will be opened in the centers to which children come.

1946. The program theme was "Wiser Children for a Future Peace" and talks stressed the need for cooperation among groups of local communities from all sections of the country and in all countries. "The major undertaking of the International Committee for the past year was procurement of funds to establish children's reading centers in war-torn countries where books in their native language may be made available to them."

A Division resolution expressed appreciation to the officers for the way in which they met emergencies and planned for the continued work of the Division during the difficult war years when there were no meetings.

1947. A letter of greeting was sent to *Mrs. Laura Ingalls Wilder* expressing the appreciation of the Children's Library Association for the pleasure she has brought to children everywhere with her "Little House Books".

1948. At the Atlantic City Conference the Children's Library Association held an Institute on children, books, and reading.

1949. Seven regional conferences discussed A.L.A. reorganization and the Public Library Inquiry.

There were 1249 C.L.A. members in May 1949.

1950. Golden Anniversary year for the Children's Library Association.

RESERVATIONS FOR THE CLA-CHILDREN'S EDITORS LUNCHEON

The Children's Library Association is giving a luncheon honoring the Editors of the Children's Book Council at 12:30 P.M. on Thursday, July 20, 1950 in the Ballroom of the Hollenden Hotel. Tickets for the luncheon will be $2.25. Accommodations are available for 400 guests. Advance reservations, with checks or money orders may be sent to Zella Hayes, Stations Department, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio. The seating will be at tables for eight. Those who wish to be seated together should so indicate with the reservation requests. Tickets will be mailed back.

The gold cover commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Children's Library Association was contributed by children's librarians of Metropolitan Detroit in memory of *Elisabeth Knapp,* who was section chairman in 1919-20, and *Jessie E. Tompkins,* chairman, 1935-36. The extra printing run for the cover is a gift of the Sturgis Printing Company.

HONOR LIST

CLA Chairmen	1900-date
Anne Carroll Moore	1900-1901, 1901-1902
*Mary E. Dousman	1902-1903
Clara W. Hunt	1903-1904, 1904-1905, 1921-1922
Mrs. A.H. Jackson (Mrs. W.P. Flint)	1905-1906
Alice M. Jordan	1906-1907, 1916-1917
Hannah Ellis	1907-1908
*Caroline Burnite	1908-1909, 1918-1919
May Massee	1909-1910
Faith E. Smith	1910-1911
Mary de Bure McCurdy	1911-1912
Effie L. Power	1912-1913, 1929-1930
Agnes Cowing	1913-1914
Jessie Carson	1914-1915
Gertrude Andrus	1915-1916
*Sara N. Bogle	1917-1918
*Elisabeth Knapp	1919-1920
Alice I. Hazeltine	1920-1921
Elva S. Smith	1922-1923
Lillian Smith	1923-1924, 1942-1943
Mary S. Wilkinson	1924-1925
*Nina C. Brotherton	1925-1926
Louise P. Latimer	1926-1927
*Annabel Porter	1927-1928
*Carrie E. Scott	1928-1929
Mary Gould Davis	1930-1931
Emma Lee	1931-1932
Della McGregor	1932-1933
Siri Andrews	1933-1934
Elizabeth Briggs	1934-1935
*Jessie E. Tompkins	1935-1936
Muriel Gilbert	1936-1937
Julia Carter	1937-1938
Gladys English	1938-1939
Miss Lesley Newton	1939-1940
Irene Smith (Mrs. L.W. Green)	1940-1941
Harriet Dickson	1941-1942
Clara Breed	Feb.-June, 1942
Harriet G. Long	1943-1944
Frances Clarke Sayers	1944-1945
Harriet Leaf	1945-1946
Helen Fuller	1946-1947
Elizabeth Groves	1947-1948
Virginia Chase	1948-1949
Margaret M. Clark	1949-1950

AUSTIN, TEXAS, HAS NEWBERY-CALDECOTT DINNER

Forty-five Austin librarians, students and teachers of Children's Literature, principals, and publishers gathered on March 9th to witness a miniature reproduction of the annual Newbery-Caldecott dinner.

The cast of characters were as follows: Margaret Clark, Mattie Ruth Moore; Ruth Hewitt, Ruth Junkin; Frederic Melcher, Sue Hefley; Marguerite deAngeli, Alice Brooks McGuire; Leo Politi, Esther Stallmann; Margaret Lesser, Cora Martin; Alice Dalgliesh, Marjorie Parker; Helen Ferris, Lucile Wilson; Robert McCloskey, M.G. Bowden; Marguerite Henry, Mary Jeannette Smith; Western Union messenger, Mrs. Ruth Junkin.

Miss Clark, the "presiding officer", introduced "Mr. Melcher" who presented the medals. The "recipients" made acceptance speeches that will doubtlessly fade in comparison with those future ones to be given in Cleveland. The "editors" spoke in glowing terms of the pleasures of working with these creative artists. All during the evening "Miss Clark" was constantly discovering "notables" in the audience and making them rise to be recognized. The fitting climax to this gala occasion was when "Mr. Melcher" read "The king's breakfast" and when "Western Union" delivered a bona fide telegram, sent jointly from the recipients and the donor in New York. Copies were distributed to each guest.

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DISTINGUISHED CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 1949

The Bells of Bleecker Street by Valenti Angelo. Illustrated by author. Viking.
Drawing from his store of memories, the author has written a fine story of boyhood against the background of an upper-lower class New York neighborhood. The family relations are warm, religious faith has its place, and boyish problems and activities are natural as Joey Enricho and his friends seek adventure along Bleecker Street.

Tree of Freedom, by Rebecca Caudill. Illustrated by Dorothy Bayley Morse. Viking.
Over the mountains from Carolina to her new home in Kentucky, Stephanie Venable carries an apple seed as her memento of the old days. As it grows into "the tree of freedom" it is symbolic of the family putting down its roots, carving a home out of the wilderness, and forming with the neighbors a community built on the democratic ideals for which the Colonies are then struggling. There is suspense in the Venables' fight for their claim and fine character delineation in the relations of the seven Venables.

The Blue Cat of Castle Town, by Catherine C. Coblentz. Illustrated by Janice Holland. Longmans.
The peace and contentment brought to the little Vermont village by the Blue Cat, who, singing his magic song of the river, freed the town from the forces of greed and power that had invaded it, is reflected in the beautiful format and text of this unusual folklike story where the author has skillfully blended fantasy and realism to produce a tale of great wisdom and strength.

The Wild Birthday Cake, by Lavinia R. Davis. Illustrated by Hildegard Woodward. Doubleday.
Theme, style, and illustrations are as fresh as the spring morning itself on which a small boy ventures forth alone ready for whatever adventure the day might bring. Johnny's thoughts and experiences on his walk and the pictures of woods and countryside, done in lovely greens and yellows, make an unusual and satisfying book.

George Washington, by Genevieve Foster. Illustrated by the author. Scribner.
Skillfully, without writing down or resorting to over-fictionalization, the author has written an animated yet authoritative biography for younger readers. The pictorial interpretations of the various periods of Washington's life are excellent.

Vison the Mink, by John and Jean George. Illustrated by Jean George. Dutton.
The life cycle of the mink is here depicted with all the dramatic struggle for survival among the animal life along a Maryland stream. The cruelty of animals to one another is vivid in its tragedy, but is skillfully handled, and man's part in the hazards of Vison's existence is given its proper place. The beautiful illustrations match the writing.

Little Boy Brown, by Isobel Harris. Illustrated by Andre Francois. Lippincott.
Simple, child-like text and deliciously detailed drawings, picture with charming originality the experiences and reactions of a small hotel-dweller on a day's visit in the country at the home of his friend the chambermaid.

America's Ethan Allen, by Stewart Holbrook. Illustrated by Lynd Ward.

Houghton.
Spirited pictures in color and in black and white exactly suit the concise and zestful text in this account of the tempestuous New England frontiersman. It is a handsome and exciting book.

Kildee House, by Rutherford Montgomery. Illustrated by Barbara Cooney. Doubleday.
A would-be hermit's plans for solitude go awry when ever-growing families of racoons and skunks determinedly set up housekeeping with him in his mountain cabin. With its gentle humor, originality, good characterization, and charming illustrations, the story is one of pure delight for nature lovers.

Song of the Swallows, by Leo Politi. Illustrated by the author. Scribner.
Lovely pictures in appropriate, muted tones recreate the charm of the Southern California landscape in this tender and joyous story of the coming of springtime and the return of the swallows to the mission of San Juan Capistrano.

The Treasure of Li-Po, by Alice Ritchie. Illustrated by T. Ritchie. Harcourt.
Six unusually charming stories told in true Chinese folklore tradition. The quiet humor, the delicate smooth-flowing style, and the original twists to the plots make this book unique.

Moses, by Katherine B. Shippen. Harper.
In this beautiful retelling of the story of Moses and the children of Israel both the dignity and grandeur of the Bible are retained. With a real appreciation for the beautiful Biblical prose, the author has reconstructed the story of this ancient leader, filling in the background and making him a living rather than a legendary character.

Great-grandfather in the Honey Tree, by Sam and Zoa Swayne. Illustrated by the authors. Viking.
There is real American tall-tale humor here in both the precise but somehow appropriate and diverting pictures and in the story itself which tells of the unlikely adventures and overwhelming success that great-grandfather had the day he went hunting armed with only one load for his gun and a bird net.

The White Ring, by Enys Tregarthen, ed. by Elizabeth Yates. Illustrated by Nora S. Unwin. Harcourt.
Elizabeth Yates has caught beautifully the spirit of the wild Cornish shores in editing this legend that was recorded many years ago by a native of Cornwall. The romantic quality of the tale, the pattern of magic spells woven and broken, the diminutive Nan who nestles in Uter's palm and rides on the back of a toad, will capture the hearts of all children at the fairy tale age. The illustrations fit perfectly the textual descriptions of Nan.

Selected and annotated by the
Children's Library Association
BOOK EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Johnson	Alice Brooks McGuire
Helen Kinsey	Isabella Jinnette, Chairman
Elizabeth McCombs	1949

Copies of the list are available from Sturgis Printing Company at the following price: 100 for $1.50, 500 for $5.00, 1000 for $7.50, 2500 for $15.00, 5000 for $27.50 including library imprint.

A.A.S.L. TO HAVE PRE-CONFERENCE IN CLEVELAND

by Margaret K. Walraven, Chairman

A.A.S.L. cordially invites all members of the Division and interested friends to the materials pre-conference to be held in Cleveland July 14-16 at the Hollenden Hotel. Able specialists and resource people will discuss trends in teaching, the presentation and utilization of materials, and small groups will be provided for member participation in discussion. A collection of pamphlets for each area is being compiled and listed by *Miss Laura Martin* and her committee. *Mrs. Dilla MacBean,* Chairman of the audio-visual education committee is directing the compilation of lists of films, filmstrips, recordings, and pictures; *Helen Lewis* and Cleveland school librarians are selecting books. Printed lists will be distributed, and opportunity will be given to examine the materials themselves.

Science will hold the spotlight on Saturday morning. *David Dietz,* author of *Atomic Energy in the Coming Era* and other books and articles, and science editor for a newspaper syndicate, will discuss "Science and Youth." *Herbert Zim,* author of many books in elementary science and a teacher, will discuss science materials at the elementary school level. Discussion groups with other science specialists at both high and elementary level will follow these talks.

On Saturday afternoon librarians will investigate a field which ordinarily does not draw heavily upon library resources — mathematics. *Dr. W. A. Brownell,* author of *Daily Life Arithmetic,* grades 1-8, *Living Arithmetic* and other books, and professor of education, University of Chicago will be the speaker. A buffet supper will be served following the mathematics sessions, and Mrs. Grace Goulder Izant will speak on folklore of the Western Reserve.

On Sunday morning human relations will be the subject and Mrs. Helen Papashvily will be the leader. In addition, *Helen Benhoff* and Cleveland Librarians will describe some of the problems their committee encountered in selecting books for the American Council on Education's *Reading Ladders in Human Relations.*

Dr. Harlan Hatcher, Vice-president, Ohio State University, author and book critic, will conclude the conference with "The American Scene."

To secure a reservation send your name (but no money) as soon as possible to Miss Mildred Batchelder, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago 11, Ill. The fee will be $4 for five sessions. Single Tickets are $1. To reserve a place for the buffet supper, send check for $2.75 to *Miss Helen Lewis,* Supervisor, the Schools Department, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Alonzo Grace, educator, sociologist, anthropologist will speak on "Growing in Democracy" at the program meeting of A.A.S.L. on Tuesday afternoon, July 18, to complete the workshop series on the subject.

Dr. Grace, now professor of education at the University of Chicago, has recently returned from Germany where he was director of the Educational and Cultural Relations Division of the American Military Government in Germany. Before going to Germany, he was Commissioner of Education in Connecticut. He was chairman of the Adult Education Department of the Cleveland School of Education from 1925-1930 (see *Current Biography*, January, 1950) and "successively, assistant supervisor, supervisor, assistant director, and director of adult education on that board." In the latter capacity he made a survey of reading interests, adult abilities and aptitudes in the city.

School Library Supervisors: City and county school library supervisors have planned a breakfast meeting for July 18 at 8:00 A.M., in the Hollenden Hotel. Send reservations to chairman, Miss Elenora C. Alexander, Supervisor of Library Services, 1500 Louisiana Street, Houston 3, Texas.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Report of the Nominating Committee

Since the A.A.S.L. amended its constitution at the annual meeting, Midwinter, 1950, and extended the term of office of the chairman and vice-chairman to two years, no names are being submitted for these offices.

Further nominations may be made by mail for consideration at the Cleveland conference at which time the election will take place.

The slate of officers follows:

Secretary:
Jean E. Lowrie, Linden School, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Board of Directors:
Beatrice Paddock, Wichita High School, Wichita 7, Kansas
Lucile Vickers, East High School, Sioux City, Iowa

Director to Division Board:
Fannie Schmitt, School Libraries Consultant, Montgomery 4, Alabama

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Maurine S. Hardin, Frick Jr. H. S.
Oakland, California
Louise Meredith, State Supervisor of School Libraries, Nashville, Tenn.
Reba Boomershine, Roosevelt High School
Dayton, Ohio
Helen Marie Cashman, Charlotte High School
Rochester, N. Y.
Margaret L. Turk, Chairman
Wiley High School, Terre Haute, Ind.

CONCERNING THE CLEVELAND CONFERENCE AND THE FUTURE OF AYPL

by

Elinor Walker, Chairman, AYPL

We are planning our programs for the Cleveland Conference so that there will be something worthwhile for everyone, no matter what size the library or how much time is devoted to work with teenagers.

Your response to the book discussion meetings has been gratifying and we think you will be pleased with the plans. The emphasis will be on the criteria we use for book selection and the uses we have found for various titles. On page 152 of the May *ALA Bulletin* you will find part of the list of books to be discussed. The remainder of the list follows here.

How can we fill the gaps in our collections?

1. Books for older boys.
   - Clark — Track of the cat
   - Costain — The conquerors
   - Gunther — Death be not proud
   - Howe — Call it treason
   - Russell — Victory in my hands
   - Stewart — Earth abides
   - Wilson — Abe Lincoln of Pigeon Creek
2. Travel
   - Caldwell — Desperate voyage
   - Goetz — Other young Americans
   - Ghose — And gazelles leaping
   - Magidoff — In anger and pity
   - Smith — Golden doorway to Tibet
3. Modern Romance
   - Bro — Sarah
   - Daly — Seventeenth Summer
   - Graham — Earth and high Heaven
   - Whitney — Ever after

What balance should we maintain between quantity and quality?

1. Heavy output from Lorimer, Heyer, Lambert, Goudge, Thane, DelaRoche, Wohl.
   a. What should be our stand on these?
   b. Why aren't these books as satisfying as our young readers expect them to be?
2. Books of quality
   - Annixter — Swiftwater
   - Chipperfield — Storm of Dancerwood
   - Muntz — Golden warrior
   - Paton — Cry the beloved country
   - Ramuz — When the mountain fell
   - Stewart — Fire
   - Stuart — Thread that runs so true

   a. Have you bought these?
   b. How do you use them?

What should we look for in books on etiquette, sex, personality?

- Beery — Manners made easy
- Bryant — Miss Behavior
- Heal — Teenage manual
- Beck — Human growth
- Bertocci — Human venture in love, sex, and marriage

Duvall — When you marry
Pemberton — Stork didn't bring you
Shultz — Letters to Jane
Strain — Teen days
Crawford — Better ways of growing up
Fedder — A girl grows up
Lawton — How to be happy though young
McKown — A boy grows up

All speakers have not, at this writing, accepted and so the complete program cannot be included here. But the following are the meetings planned:

July 17-21	8:30-9:30 A.M.	Assembly Room Hollenden Hotel	Fee $1.00	Book Discussions

Reservations must be made before July 10. Write to Elinor Walker, Carnegie Library, 4400 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

July 17	2:00	Place to be Assigned	Program

I. How can the librarian in the small library best serve the teenage reader?
Panel of librarians from branch and small city libraries.

II. News of a new Young People's Library
Miss Dorothy Lawson
Holladay Memorial Library for Young People
Indianapolis, Indiana

III. The Library and radio programming for teenagers
Miss Marie Davis
Public Relations Director
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

July 18	12:15-2:30	Assembly Room Hollenden Hotel	Price $2.25	Luncheon Program

Reservations must be made before July 7. Write to Frances Grim, Youth Department, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio.

July 21	9:30-11:00	Assembly Room Hollenden Hotel	Business Meeting

We shall have some important decisions to make about the future of AYPL. Since AASL has formally petitioned for permission to withdraw from our Division, we must decide what we want to do if the permission to withdraw is granted.

Early in May I shall attend the meeting of the Constitution Committee for the new Public Libraries Division. The report of that meeting will be made at Cleveland. Can we function as effectively and freely as a member of the Public Libraries Division or should we and can we stay as a Division with CLA continuing under a set-up similar to our present one? You should be in Cleveland to hear and contribute to the discussion of our future. You will want to know all the facts concerning any possible reorganization before you make any decisions. Personally, I hope that our members present in

Cleveland will take no hasty action. I should like to see all possible plans for our future organization written up in *Top of the News* and then a mail vote taken to determine the desires of the whole membership.

This will probably be my last report to you. Mrs. Brauneck will take over after the Conference. My sincere thanks to those of you who have written me with advice and suggestions. I only wish more of you had done it. Your officers need to know you are interested in AYPL projects and are willing to work on committees, etc. If you don't write, you are often just names on a membership list. We can't know all of you personally, but letters do help a lot. I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at Cleveland.

RECRUITING ITEMS

Wings, the official publication of the Literary Guild, carried a paragraph on the need for librarians on the back cover of its April, 1950 issue. *Young Wings*, the magazine of the Junior Literary Guild, has an item "Why not choose the Library for your Career" on page 15 (inside back cover) of its April issue. The Recruiting Committee of the Division is indebted to Walter O'Keefe, Sales Manager for the Doubleday Institutional Department, for his efforts in getting the publicity in the publications.

With a circulation of 1,500,000 for *Wings* and 100,000 for *Young Wings* it is hoped some seeds will fall on fertile ground.

Esther V. Burrin, Chairman
Recruiting Committee.

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WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

by

Mildred Batchelder, Executive Secretary

Librarians in several states report that studies of needed library services which affect children and young people are part of state programs now under way in preparation for the *White House Conference on Children and Youth* in December, 1950. South Carolina, Connecticut and Wisconsin have indicated active library participation. Michigan, Maryland, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Alabama and Minnesota report varying degrees of opportunity for working with state committee programs. Perhaps others are active which have not reported.

The climax of two years planning and work will be the White House Conference meeting in Washington beginning Dec. 3, 1950. Invitations will be issued by state White House Conference committees. Thus, the number of librarians invited will depend on the extent to which librarians and libraries have been able to take a significant part in each state.

The objectives of the conference make clear the importance of considering library needs in relation to other needs for services. In the fields of parent education, improved family living, reading guidance for children and young people, equalization of services to all people in the state, are library services needed? Are they adequately available? As a result of state committee work, how are library aspects of these and many other problems being solved?

The A.L.A. is one of many organizations on an Advisory Council on Participation of National Organizations in the White House Conference. The Executive Secretary of the Division or Mrs. Aubry Lee Graham of the A.L.A. Washington Office have represented the A.L.A. and the Division at such meetings. As a result A.L.A. activities affecting children and young people will be included among organization reports for the conference. Also A.L.A. is requested to make a special report, possibly a compendium of case studies of some local and state library programs affecting services for children and youth.

Suggestions about the nature of such a special report and information about libraries which should be invited to prepare brief descriptions of their programs will be welcomed by the Division Executive Secretary.

OPEN HOUSE FOR DIVISION MEMBERS

There will be many opportunities for Division members to get acquainted at the Hollenden, the Division headquarters hotel. On Monday, July 17 and Friday, July 21, from 4:30-6:00 P.M. in Parlors A, B, and C there will be an *Open House* for Division members with refreshments and special exhibits.

Three Excellent Juveniles for Libraries

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Sanford Tousey always tells the kind of story boys like. This is a lively tale of the fun and problems two boys have when they raise chickens to earn a pony — a good book for beginning readers with its full-color pictures and easy text.

6⅛ x 9¼. 48 pp. Full color, black and white. Cloth. Ages 6-9. $1.75.

THIS IS AN ORCHESTRA

by Elsa Z. Posell, Illustrated with Photographs

This unequaled volume is a complete guide to the orchestral instruments, " . . . a splendid book, heartily recommended to any young person over ten who is interested in music. Much learning, research and careful consultation lie behind its well-written, delightful pages." — ***New York Herald Tribune.***

6 x 9. 96 pp. Black and white. Cloth. Ages 10-14. $2.50.

CRAZY HORSE

by Shannon Garst, Illustrated by William Moyers

"Engrossing biography of a great warrior and chief of the Oglala Sioux tribe. In this well-written account of his growth to manhood and leadership, and his lifetime fight to hold the Indian lands from the invading whites . . . Crazy Horse is rightly portrayed with dignity as a heroic leader and his story makes a thrilling tale of adventure." — ***A. L. A. Booklist.***

6 x 9. 272 pp. Black and white. Buckram. Ages 12 up. $2.75.

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NEWBERY-CALDECOTT COMMITTEE

by

Ruth E. Hewitt, Chairman

Evidence points to the need for general information being given the membership on the mechanics of selecting the Newbery-Caldecott award books. The final choice is made by a committee of twenty three members made up of the officers and committee chairmen of Children's Library Association, three members at large, and the president and four members from the American Asssociation of School Librarians. Soon after the first of the year this committee nominates a group of titles to be considered. Copies of the books are circulated to the committee for examination. The votes of the general membership come in, are tabulated, and given to the committee members to indicate general support of the titles being considered. Whether or not this year's general voting was unusual I don't know, but the top titles followed very closely the nominations made by the committee members in similar proportions, the votes for final nomination giving first, second, and third choices. Assigning points to these choices, the winner must obtain a certain number of points and exceed the next runner-up by a certain margin.

This year, for the second time, the announcement of the winners was made in New York on the first Monday in March, in the office of Mr. Frederic Melcher, the donor of the medals. Two years ago the membership voted to discontinue the attempt to hold the announcement of the winners until the Newbery-Caldecott Banquet. This year the Banquet will be held at the A.L.A. meeting in Cleveland on July 18th; at that time Marguerite de Angeli and Leo Politi will make their acceptance speeches.

At Mr. Melcher's invitation, the chairman of the committee came to New York and had the privilege of presenting the medals to the winners at a gathering in his office at the R.R. Bowker Co. before about twenty guests representing the library profession, publishers and reviewers. This year the Children's Book Council added much to the occasion by giving a reception for the winners, Mr. Melcher and the chairman in their new offices at 50 West 53rd Street. It was a festive occasion and made it possible for interested people from the New York area to have a sociable time together. It was demonstrated last year that the early announcement has advantages for all concerned and does not detract from the banquet. C.L.A. still needs to work out clearer suggestions for the membership to obtain and publicize announcements. Another year's experience will give the committee an opportunity to develop these details.

An examination of the titles that appear as runners-up this year or any other year brings into sharp focus the wide variety of our enthusiasms and evaluations. Every thoughtful person dealing with books for children watches this process as a whole and sees emerging all the varied experiences we have with books, personalities and regions. Looking back over the nominations of other years we see issuing trends, new currents of thought, and reflection of national interests of people who work with books. No one who is even remotely connected with this committee each year can help but feel the impact of national interest in the process and realize how much we owe Frederic Melcher, the founder of the awards.

ALICE BROOKS McGUIRE

Beginning with the October issue, Alice Brooks McGuire will be editor of *Top of the News*. Many of you already know Mrs. McGuire in her capacity of Editor of the Materials Corner for the past two years.

From July 1, 1945 to September, 1949, she was Librarian of the University of Chicago Materials Center. Before that she was on the faculty of the Drexel Library School. She has also taught summers at Albany, Geneseo, and University of Southern California. She will return to Southern California this summer as Materials Consultant in their Workshop for School Librarians.

Mrs. McGuire has written articles on materials and children's literature for various professional journals and is co-editor of *Youth, Communication and Libraries* (A.L.A. 1949). She has a master's degree from Columbia University and has her dissertation to complete for her doctorate at University of Chicago.

She now makes her home in Austin, Texas, where her husband is a member of the faculty at the University of Texas. Her title in the Lone Star State is "housewife," which should allow her plenty of time for her editorial work. However, she has been fortunate in finding many library and educational activities that enable her to keep in close touch with the professional scene. At present, she is laying out plans for the October *Top of the News* which is to have an International theme.

INDIANA SCHOOL LIBRARIANS OFFICERS

At the annual meeting of the Indiana School Librarians Association in Muncie, Indiana, 24-25 March 1950 the following officers were elected for the year 1950-1951.

President: Thelma M. Stout, Speedway High School, Indianapolis.
Vice-President: Myrtle Moberg, John Adams High School, South Bend.
Secretary: Mary Elizabeth Johnson, Burris Laboratory School, Muncie.
Treasurer: Louise Robertson, Princeton High School, Princeton.
Historian: Orpha Book, Elkhart High School, Elkhart.

IN MEMORY OF VELMA SHAFFER

Velma Shaffer died March 25 in Bourbon, Indiana. Some of her friends have sent memorial gifts of money to provide special books or special facilities of some kind for the Library Service Department of the College of Education of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Anyone who would like to do so is invited to join us in this recognition of the splendid work which Velma Shaffer did in training school librarians and in furthering school library development. Checks should be made to Priscilla Lantz and sent to her at the Library Service Department, College of Education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

TO THE EDITOR
TOP OF THE NEWS

I wish to agree with Miss Krarup's article on "What status for A.A.S.L." in the March issue of *Top of the News*.

Mrs. Walraven's report that there was a representative group at the Mid Winter meeting is misleading in that it does not show that the *majority* of those in attendance were members who live in or near Chicago and it is this particular group who are so strongly in favor of the change to separate status. Since all other regional meetings voted against it — or at least for further study — Mrs. Walraven's report is most disturbing.

Since the annual meeting will be held in Cleveland, the majority of those present will again be the Chicago group and I fear the vote will be biased.

This is an important step. We should either be given more time or a ballot should be sent out to the *whole* membership.

Our representative who opposed the separate status at the Mid Winter meeting was told she had not thought the matter through — we have *worked* the matter through during several harmonious years. We already have strong organizations of school librarians. We need the contact and joint planning that we now have in A.L.A. in the united Division and I should be grieved to see the Division disrupted.

It will be impossible for me to attend the Conference in Cleveland — therefore this is my only means of asking for a hearing. I would like to ask that we either have more time to consider so important a step or that the *whole* membership of the Division be given an opportunity to vote.

Sincerely yours,
Nina Pearl Briggs
Elementary School Librarian
Santa Maria School District
Santa Maria, California

Back issues of TOP OF THE NEWS, Volume 3 to date, are available from Sturgis Printing Company, Sturgis, Michigan at 35c each. Stamps or coins accepted.

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FIVE ON A TREASURE ISLAND

by Enid Blyton

GEORGIA'S "horrid" summer turned out to be packed with unexpected and thrilling events. She, her three cousins, and a lively dog discovered an old, old map, when a long-submerged wreck was heaved up on Kirrin Island. The map played an important part in their lives and in the lives of the strangers who suddenly became interested in the island and its ruined castle. This fast-paced story with its true-to-life characters and its exciting plot will delight any boy or girl.

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MATERIALS

A QUARTERLY LISTING FOR LIBRARIANS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS

edited by
Alice Brooks McGuire

CHILD STUDY

Baruch, Dorothy W. *How to discipline your children.* N. Y. Public Affairs Committee, 1949. (Public Affairs pamphlet, no. 154) 20c

Brown, Muriel W. *Partners in education;* a guide to better home-school relationships. Assn. for Childhood Education International, 1200 15th St., N.W., Washington 5, 1950. 75c

Frank, Josette. *Comics, radio, movies — and children.* N. Y. Public Affairs Committee, 1949. (Public Affairs pamphlet, no. 148) 20c

Franklin, Catherine S. *Children's programs presented on nationally sponsored network time during the first six months of* 1948. Urbana (Ill.) Univ. of Illinois, 1950. (Occasional papers, no.8) Single copies free on application to Herbert Goldhor.

Aims to "offer a reasonably current picture of the programs of the four national networks that were intended for children . . . "

Limited to: time allotted, age level, and classification of content. Findings are revealing in their lack of relation to good reading for children.

Goetz, Delia *World understanding begins with children.* Washington, Govt. printing office, 1949. (Bul. no. 17) 15c

Redl, Fritz. *Understanding children's behavior.* N. Y., Bureau of publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1949. (Parent-teachers series) 60c

U. S. Children's bureau. *Moving ahead for children and youth;* program of the National Commission on children and youth. Washington, Govt. printing office, 1949. (Children's bureau publication, no.329) 15c

U. S. Office of education. *Preparing your child for school.* Washington, Govt. printing office, 1949. (Pamphlet 108) 15c

READING LISTS AND GUIDANCE

Boys Club of America. 1949 *junior book awards.* Publications service, Boys Clubs of America, 381 4th Pl., N. Y. 16.

Classified list of the top ranking books submitted for this awards program. Valuable because of the comments on each book showing reader reactions. Also lists reasons given for not liking some books.

Cundiff, Ruby Ethel. *Recommended reference books for the elementary school library.* Chicago, Wilcox & Follett, 1949. 50c

228 titles that have reference and curriculum value for the elementary level.

Graham, Gladys Murphy. *Today's books for children and tomorrow's world.* American assn. of university women, 1634 Eye St., N.W., Washington, D. C. Apply for price.

This enlarged rewriting of the author's "Children of democracy" published ten years ago is an attractive, rambling consideration of many

phases of children's books and reading. It contains good material for parents and some librarians.

Minnesota. Dept. of education. *Adventure for all;* a booklist for rural schools. Minneapolis, Author, 1949-50.

New York (city) Board of education. *Library books helpful in planning units of work in the elementary and junior high schools;* rev. ed. The board, 110 Livingston St., Brooklyn 2, 1949.
Not annotated.

U. S. Children's bureau. *For the children's bookshelf;* a booklist for parents. Washington, Govt. printing office, 1949. (Publication 304) 15c

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Austin (Texas) Public schools. *Library manual.* The board, 1949. (Curriculum bul. no. G040) $1.50. Mimeographed.
This guide to organization and administration was prepared by a group of school librarians in a summer workshop and might well serve as a model for other school library groups.

Minnesota. Dept. of education. *About books and libraries;* a manual for rural school teachers. Minneapolis, Author, 1949.

TEACHING MATERIALS

Assn. for Childhood Education. *This is reading.* The Assn., 1200 15th St., N.W., Washington 5, 1949. 75c
The what, the when, the how and why of reading, problems in teaching and a description of a reading program.

General Motors, Detroit, Michigan. *The automobile story;* teaching units for elementary classes, published to promote a greater understanding of our country's growth.

National Council for the Social Studies. Twentieth yearbook: *Improving the teaching of world history.* The Council, 1210 16th St., N.W., Washington 6, 1949. $2.50 (paper); $3.00 (cloth).
Part V: Materials for the study of world history.

U. S. Bureau of the census. *We count in* 1950; a U. S. census handbook for elementary school teachers. Single copies upon request from school administrators and teachers. Address: Bur. of census, U. S. Dept. of commerce, Washington. (Please give name of school).
In joint sponsorship with the National council of social studies.
Topics: Insight through statistics; We begin to count; What counting has told us; How the Census bureau works; Suggestions to teachers. Contains poster of photographs, showing how the census works. Excellent.

MISCELLANEOUS

Hogben, Lancelot. *From cave painting to comic strip;* a kaleidoscope of human communication. N. Y. Chanticleer press, 1949. $5.00.
Rich in illustrative material.

Jagendorf, Moritz A. *Upstate, downstate;* folk stories of the middle Atlantic states. N. Y. Vanguard, 1949. $2.75.
Second in this series of American folklore.

The river song from "The blue cat of Castle Town." Words by Catherine Coblentz, music by Francis X. Hagney. N. Y. Longmans, 1949. 50c

Sickels, Evelyn R. *North American folklore:* books for boys and girls. Indianapolis, (Ind.) Public Library. free, mimeographed.

U. S. Office of education. *The structure of state departments of education.* Washington, Govt. printing office, 1949. 40c. (Misc. no. 10).

GOOD FREE MATERIALS

National Life Insurance Company, Montpelier, Vermont. *The story of old Vermont in pictures.*

International Shoe Co., St. Louis, Mo. *Shoes thru the ages*: the story of footwear.

Australian News & Information Bureau, 636 Fifth Avenue, New York. *Flora-Fauna, birds, animals, trees, fishes of Australia.*

Lee Rubber & Tire Corporation, Youngstown, Ohio. *Lee of Conshohocken at the Franklin Institute*: the history of rubber.

Seiberling Rubber Co., Akron, Ohio. *Let's play safe!*

Hershey Chocolate Corporation, Hershey. Pa. *The story of Chocolate and Cocoa.*

American Forest Products Industries, Inc., 1319 Eighteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. *The story of forests.*

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Mo., *Building the constitution*, by Irving Dilliard.

Swift & Company, Chicago. *The March to market*: the story of meat.

International Paper Company, Mobile, Alabama. *How money grows on trees:* the story of the Crop that Grows Eighty Feet High.

General Electric, Schenectady, New York. *Adventure series*, by General Comics, Inc.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Company. *Our America*: Oil a modern necessity.

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington, D. C.:

Ranger 'rithmetic for sixth grade teachers

Making paper from trees — *Forests for the future*
Memorial forests — *Forests and wildlife*
Christmas trees — *Edible fruits of forest trees*

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Highlights in the history of forest conservation.

Materials Section Reprints available through Sturgis Printing Co., Box 329, Sturgis, Mich.
100 copies $2.00 plus postage.
500 copies $7.00 plus postage.

IN THE MAGAZINES

by
Doris M. Cole, Librarian
Massena, New York Public Schools

This quarter has been a fertile one in the periodical field. Probably the most highly publicized birth was that of *Flair;* "a magazine for moderns", in January of this year. Advertising promised a magazine that could be read with a "sense of surprise and the joy of discovery." Volume I, number 1 lived

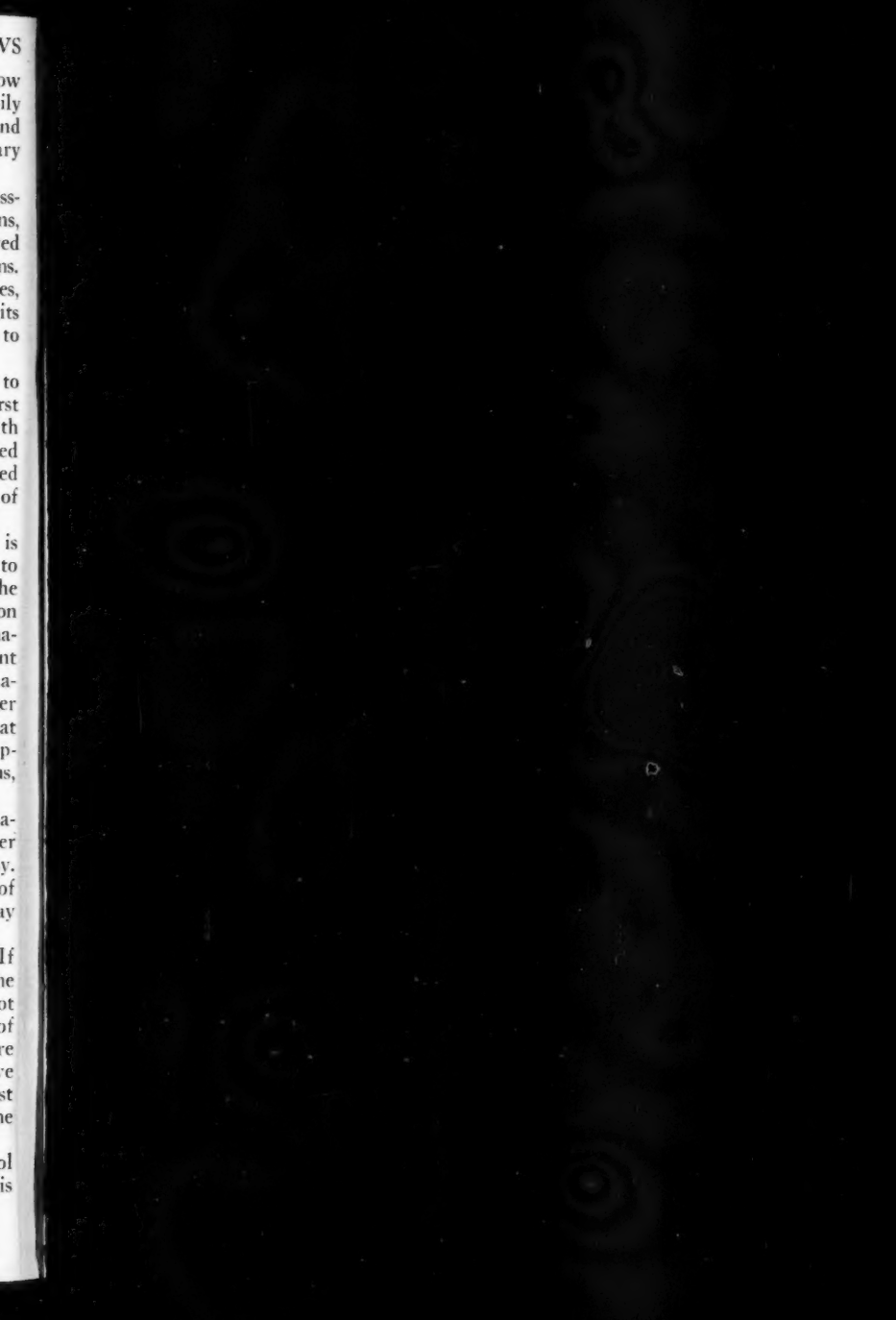
up to all the advance notices, with innovations in format including a window cut in the cover, some printing in invisible ink that became legible, temporarily with the application of heat, a blue page printed in gold, odd size pages, and inserted gate-folds that opened up to surprise the reader. The February number was toned down somewhat.

The scope of *Flair* is more general than that of other frankly class-appeal magazines, such as *Vogue* or *Town and Country* as it includes fashions, literature, travel, art, decor, and entertainment. Among the people represented in the first issue were Jean Cocteau, W.H. Auden, and Tennessee Williams. This big magazine, bound like a book, is published by Cowles Magazines, Inc. and sells for $5 a year or 50 cents a copy. Its format, and perhaps its price, make it somewhat unsuitable for library use, but it will be interesting to see how other publications react to the daring pattern it has set.

Libraries specializing in commercial and industrial design will want to investigate *Portfolio,* a large size, swank quarterly which also made its first appearance in January. Like *Flair,* it goes in for innovations in format, with accordion-folded pages, full page posters and odd-sized inserted pages. Aimed mainly at people interested in the graphic arts and design fields, it is supposed to be the American equivalent of such European publications as *Graphis* of Switzerland. Put out by the Zebra Press, it is ten dollars for four issues.

Another January birth, of interest particularly to school librarians, is that of *Facts International.* This arrived unheralded on our desk and seems to be mainly the work of the editor, Richard Hastier, a former editor of the United Nations Department of Information. It is *not* an official publication of the United Nations, although Mr. Hastier claims that all of his information and figures come from official United Nations sources. It aims to present the main activities o the United Nations and its various subsidiary organizations in what it calls a "predigested, readable style". It is a slick paper publication with good maps, charts, and photographs. The editor claims that his acts are "obsulutely (sic) accurate". A monthly publication, its subscription price is $3.50 a year or 3 months for a dollar. It does not, by any means, take the place of *The United Nations Bulletin.*

We wonder what other school librarians are doing about such publications as the *USSR Information Bulletin,* a handsome, well-put together magazine, which is being sent to us free twice a month by the Russian Embassy. In Syracuse, New York, the Board of Education started an investigation of all publications in school libraries because this one magazine found its way onto the shelves.

What do we do about propaganda, anyway? Do we keep it all out? If not, how do we choose what to admit? One superintendent has taken the stand that this particular publication is not admissible because we are not allowed to visit Russia, and so we have no way of checking on the accuracy of the facts presented in it. Publications of the British government which are just as frankly propaganda are permissible because, theoretically at least, we are in a position to verify their accuracy. Incidentally, we know of at least one superintendent in the Midwest who will allow no publications of the National Association of Manufacturers in his school libraries.

The important thing would seem to be for each librarian and each school administrator to establish a policy, so that he may be prepared with his answers before the witch hunters descend upon him.